

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GUATEM 06137 312252Z

14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W  
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R 312130Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2970

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 6137

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: OVIP, PINR, PGOV, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AND RUMORED VISIT TO US

1. IN TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 30 DEVOTED MAINLY TO PROGRESS OF RECONSTRUCTION, PRESIDENT ALUGERUD WAS ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT ILL HEALTH WOULD FORCE HIM TO GO TO US FOR TREATMENT.

2. PRESIDENT SAID WITH BROAD SMILE THAT GUATEMALA IS A COUNTRY OF RUMORS - SOME SPREAD OUT OF IGNORANCE AND SOME WITH BASE MOTIVES. HE HAD HEARD ALL KINDS OF STORIES ABOUT HIS HEALTH, RANGING FROM BRAIN TUMOR TO AMPUTATED LEG. MRS. LAUGERUD UNFORTUNATELY SUFFERS FROM SEVERE MIGRAINE HEADACHES AND THIS MAY HAVE LED TO CONFUSED STORY THAT HE HAD TUMOR. IN FACT, HE SAID, HIS ONLY HEALTH PROBLEM WAS A SWELLING OF MUCOUS MEMBRANE OF THE SINUSES WHICH AT TIMES CAUSED HIM SOME DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING. THIS WAS UNDER TREATMENT. AS FOR TRAVEL, PRESIDENT SAID THAT WITH ALL THE WORK STILL TO BE DONE IN RECONSTRUCTION, ONLY SEVEN MONTHS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CON QUE CARA ME IRIA A PASEAR POR CUALQUIER PAIS - HOW COULD I POSSIBLY TAKE A VACATIONIN ANY COUNTRY?  
ANDREWS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEDICAL CARE, HEALTH, PRESS CONFERENCES, ALLEGATIONS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GUATEM06137  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760331-0348  
**From:** GUATEMALA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976084/aaaaacuu.tel  
**Line Count:** 51  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 1  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** harterdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JAN 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ReddocGW>; RELEASED <11 JAN 2005 by harterdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by harterdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AND RUMORED VISIT TO US  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PINR, PGOV, GT, (LAUGERUD GARCIA, KJELL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006